



Technical Assistance Services for Communities
Contract No.: EP-W-07-059
TASC WA No.: TASC-4-HQ-OSRTI
Technical Directive No.: 2.01 TD#2 Midnite Mine

Technical Assistance Requests Summary

Site Name: Midnite Mine Superfund Site
Site Location: Wellpinit, WA
Date: June 5, 2012

Introduction

This summary contains technical assistance recommendations collected by The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Technical Assistance Services for Communities Program (TASC). Community requests were provided by members of the Spokane Tribe and members of the greater Wellpinit, WA community. Paul Robinson, TASC technical advisor, also provided some recommendations that he thinks will benefit the community.

The requests were collected during:

- Attendance at two community meetings on March 28, 2012 in Wellpinit, WA by Alison Frost, TASC Technical Assistance Specialist.
- A conference call regarding the Remedial Design Work Plan Summary between community members and TASC technical advisor, Paul Robinson on April 3, 2012.
- A conference call regarding the Aerial Survey Summary between community members and TASC technical advisor, Paul Robinson on April 23, 2012.
- Telephone calls and e-mails between Paul and Alison.

The purpose of this document is to share the collected technical assistance requests with EPA, it does not include a prioritization of services or a recommendation for next steps. Future TASC support for the Midnite Mine community has not yet been determined.

Technical Assistance Requests and Recommendations

Community members made several requests that would support community understanding and involvement in the Superfund cleanup at Midnite Mine. Paul also gave recommendations on technical assistance that may be helpful.

Requests include:

- **Communication with a technical advisor.** The community would like an opportunity to speak with Paul about his reviews of the Draft Remedial Design Work Plan and Aerial Radiation Summary.¹ The community would like more than one technical advisor so that a variety of specialties can be covered.
- **Technical Advisor representation at technical meetings.** Community members expressed that technical meetings can be difficult to understand. They would like independent technical advisor(s) present at meetings to help translate complex information.
- **Schedule of events for community participation.** Community members would like a schedule of EPA's upcoming activities that could include community meetings, release of documents for review, opportunities for community input and critical milestones in cleanup.
- **Technical document review and summary.** Documents to review could include the 30%, 60% and 90% Design documents, and health and safety-related documents such as the Worker's Safety Plan. Paul Robinson indicated that it could be helpful to review "design investigations," which are studies identified in the Remedial Design Work Plan. The studies will be used to provide design criteria that will inform the Preliminary Design and they identify technical issues such as resin management, hauling operations, borrow site issues and pit backfill concepts that have been raised as community concerns.
- **Production of educational video.** Community members expressed the desire to receive information visually and requested the production of an educational video on radiation/radionuclide levels on the Spokane Indian Reservation and potential effects of this exposure. Community members indicated that this video would be a helpful way to share information, as some tribal members do not have access to a phone or computer.
- **Data review and summary.** The community would like a review of data related to potential fill site scenarios and a review of the data from the radiation ground survey. Paul Robinson indicated that a review of models/examples used to inform the cleanup design could be analyzed for past effectiveness at other mining sites. He also indicated that it could be helpful to provide a comparison of this site to other similar sites.
- **Job training.** Community members are interested in job training opportunities to prepare workers for employment in construction work related to the cleanup.
- **First Responder training.** Community members are interested in safety training for first responders who need to respond to situations at the mine site.

¹ This task is complete.

- **Community Advisory Group formation.** The community requested assistance forming an advisory committee and aid in the facilitation of meetings and group activities.
- **Website to coordinate site-related efforts.** Community members expressed that it can be confusing to understand all of the site-related efforts. For example, it would be helpful to have a website that shares information about the EPA cleanup, the Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program grant for exposed mine workers, job training and any other efforts related to the site.
- **Fact sheet production.** Visually-appealing fact sheets communicating complex technical topics in plain language could be helpful. Topics requested include health effects of radiation, worker safety, and risk to people, plants and animals.
- **Educational installation.** Community members requested an educational installation in the Tribal Administration building. The installation could include large visual displays with information about the mine, cleanup and public health.
- **Public health/risk information.** Community members would like to know if any health related studies exist and if so, they would like a summary of the results. The community would also like information on risk levels of exposure from radiation/radionuclide levels in the past, present and future. They would like to know the impact on people, plants and animals. Paul Robinson suggested that this could be done through the use of exposure models based on the findings of the aerial and ground surveys.
- **Meeting facilitation.** Community members would like a facilitator to arrange a technical meeting between all stakeholders to discuss the (b) (6) property fill-site issue.

Contact Information

Skeo Solutions Project Manager
 Alison Frost
 719-256-6708
afrost@skeo.com

Skeo Solutions Work Assignment Manager
 Krissy Russell-Hedstrom
 719-256-6701
krissy@skeo.com

Skeo Solutions Program Manager
 Michael Hancox
 434-989-9149
mhancox@skeo.com

Skeo Solutions Director of Finance and Human Resources
 Briana Branham
 434-975-6700, ext. 3
bbranham@skeo.com

Skeo Solutions TASC Quality Control Monitor
Eric Marsh
512-505-8151
emarsh@skeo.com